

Veranstalter:	Dr. Philipp Hunnekuhl
Modul:	The British Working-Class Novel [ENG-6, ENG-6a, ENG-12, AA7, AA10, LAA9, LAA12, AA-MA01, AA-MA02, AA-MA06, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-552
Zeit:	Di 10-12
Raum:	Ü35-11041
Beginn:	16.10.18

In 1940, George Orwell observed that ‘If you look for the working classes in fiction, & especially English fiction, all you find is a hole in the air’. Virginia Woolf, in the same year, wrote that ‘Take away all that the working class has given to English literature and that literature would scarcely suffer’. This course aims to re-appraise these statements through examining four milestone novels by, and about, the British working class. Expect eye-opening but not comforting reads; the subject matter of this course is the poverty and abjection of the disenfranchised during the twentieth century.

Our introductory seminar will be dedicated to different theoretical approaches to the novel, from the realist aesthetic of Georg Lukács to Theodor Adorno’s collectivist modernism to Ernst Bloch’s *Principle of Hope* (extracts to be distributed on the day). The first novel on our agenda will then be Robert Tressell’s *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* (1914), set in the south of England. Walter Greenwood’s *Love on the Dole* (1933), set in Manchester, will follow – a work that had an immediate impact on British politics and policy-making. The third novel on our reading list is Pat Barker’s *Union Street* (1982), set in the north-east of England. Irvine Welsh’s *Trainspotting* (1993), which we will be reading in the original Scots vernacular, concludes our course. In order to overcome the particular linguistic challenges that Welsh’s novel poses – but also to accommodate those students who wish to write on the literature–film interface – we will watch Danny Boyle’s 1996 film adaptation of *Trainspotting* in our final seminar.

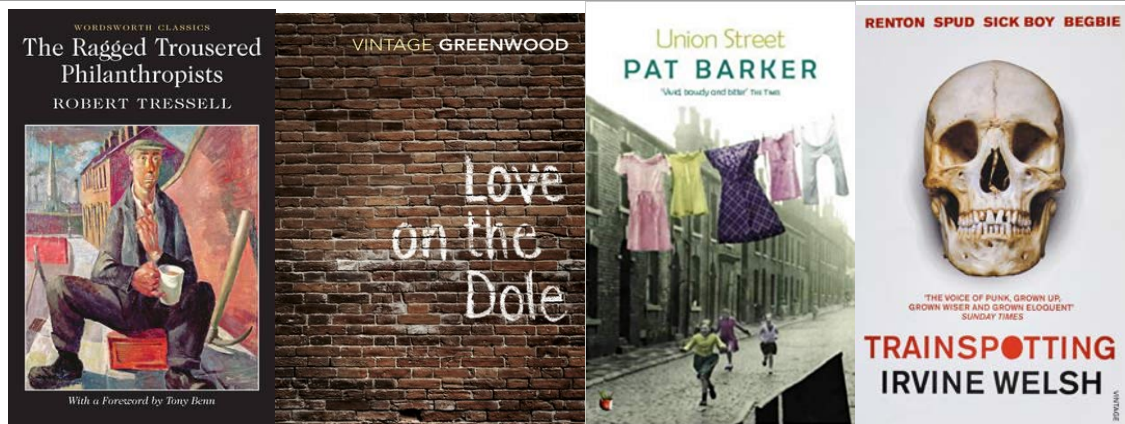
Ideally, you should purchase the following four editions for this course:

Robert Tressell, *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* (Wordsworth Classics, 2012)

Walter Greenwood, *Love on the Dole* (Vintage, 1993)

Pat Barker, *Union Street* (Virago, 1982)

Irvine Welsh, *Trainspotting* (Vintage, 2013)



Please buy these books as soon as possible, as you will probably have to order them from international online bookshops such as the Book Depository. *You will need them in paper copy from week two onwards.* New, they should cost no more than 5 to 12 Euros each, and may be yet cheaper second hand. If, however, you already have a different edition of any of these books, then feel free to bring that to our seminars instead.

Requirements for successful completion: regular attendance, detailed knowledge of assigned texts, a presentation, and a final 4,000–5,000 word essay

Introductory reading: Ian Haywood, *Working-class Fiction from Chartism to Trainspotting* (Plymouth: Northcote House, 1997)